BOSTON.

LITERARY, ART, AND THEATRICAL GOSSIP. THE PROPOSED MUSICAL FESTIVAL—PLANS AND HITCHES—MR. GILMORE AND HIS BOOK—NEW PUBLICATIONS TO COME—TWO FRESH POEMS —DOINGS OF LADY WRITERS—PICTURES AND STATUARY-CHANGES AT THE THEATERS.

Boston, March 31. - The announcement was made a week age that the anniversary of the great Roston Jubilet and Musical Festival of 1869 would be celebrated this Summer by a somewhat similar affair, on a much smaller scale, to be held at the Skating Kink in this city-the largest building in New-England capable of holding an audience. According to the published programme, the affair is to be under the auspices of the Massachussetts section of the National Musical Congress It is to be under the direction of Messrs, Tourjee, Glimore and Zerrahn, all prominently identified with the Jubi of last year; it is to continue five days; it is to consist of cheral and instrumental concerts by an orchestra of 200 and a succession of detachments, each 2,000 strong, from the cheral societies of the State, with organ, cannon, and se forth. An audience of 5,000 is expected to be accommodated, and the profits are to be divided among the societies taking part. It is perhaps hardly just to say that all this brilliant announcement is premature; but it is cer-tain that there is a great deal of doubt as to whether the nflair will take place at all, and no certainty whatever as to the details of the shape it may assume if it is finally earried through. The project has many elements which excite opposition. In the first place, the Rick, which seems an indispensable feature of the project in its present form, is a place of tad once. It fell in seon after it was first epened; it had a piece of its roof torn off in the gale last Fall, and it was not built with a view to accourmodate a multitude of people on scats built up like an amphithenter. It may be supposed that the leaders of the present project would never contemplate the use of the struc-ture unless they were assured of its absolute safety; but still, such reminiscences have their weight with the pub-lic. Then the organization of the Musical Congress is such that there are toubts of the authority of members of local divisions to act without the consent of the higher officers; and in many ways there are difficulties, ch, to be sure, as always beset the early stages of every great undertaking, but such as seriously threaten the very existence of this enterprise, and have manifested themselves in very warm and inharmonious debates in ctings which have thus far been held the preliminary meetings which have thus far been held. The reluctance of the representatives of many prominext secreties to join in the project, the incredulity of many as to its financial success, the fear of belittling the grand memory of the Jubilos which it is proposed to colebrate, have all had their weight; and as matters now stand it is about an even chance whether or not the scheme shall be permitted to drag while there is yet time, with a vigorous application of the principle of

"Least said soonest mended." Mr. P. S. Gilmere has not been in any sense a leader in this project, and his connection with its early stages has been very slight, though he has been ready loyally to give his aid in anything which his associates of the mu-sical societies may deem to be desirable. In fact, Mr Gilmore is so completely absorbed in the book which he is writing as a history of the Jubilee, giving to its com position all the concentration, the intensity, the warmth, the passionate carnestness which he gave to the inception of the Jubilee itself, that he has very little time or thought for anything clse. Much of the success of his carrier has been due to his habit of giving his whole mind and heart to one thing at a time; and if fidelity to that may be counted upon as a certainty. Mr. Gilmore seems to have floating about his brain a nebulous or at least ommunicable idea of some great thing in the future, to eclipse any achievement in the past; but even that waits for the completion of the book. The heap of manuscript is rapidly increasing in size, and the first of It will seen be in the printers' hands, with the hope of getting out the completed volume early in the Summer. The author's endeavor has been to tell the whole truth about the Jubilee, including the long, tiresome year of slient work before the public had heard a word of what was in store, as well as the noisy, crowded, glorious week of complete fruition. Some of the experiences of the projector, among unsympathising people in New-York as well as in Boston, painful as they must have been in the actuality, make very enjoyable reading when framed in a piquant style; and the carnest, rapid, warm style of the work generally has in it abundant sug-gestions of the spirit which created the Jubilee, and carried it through in spite, as it sometimes seemed, of

It may be said that the beneficial influences of the Jubilee upon the interests of music in the country at large are still constantly becoming apparent. Choral societies have been at work all Winter, and new ones are forming every week, from Montreal to Minnesota; and voices which hitherto have been content with "Pop goes the Weasel" are trained with "Hear ye, Israel." and similar music of the higher class. The Festival in the Collseum was the targetifor many sneers; but it had the seed of good in it, and the growth of that seed will extend through many years to come and over many tniles of territory, whether its original planting is annually celebrated by lesser festivals or not.

Place aux dames !

George Eliot's new poem is to reach the American pubhe first through The Atlantic Monthly, appearing in the May number of that periodical a week or more before the May Macmilian is published in London. It is a work of considerable length, in rhymed heroic lines, and the title

Mrs. Harriet Beccher Stowe has turned to account her retirement in Florida, and the leisure afforded by the natural death of the Byron controversy, by writing a series of short tales, each complete in itself, to be called "Oldtown Stories." They will be published in successive numbers of *The Atlantic Monthly*, beginning with that for June. As the title indicates, these stories will be workings of the same vein of New-England life and character in the last century which was opened in "Oldtown Folks." Apropos of Mrs. Stowe, probably no more absurdly false story ever appeared in print than that which has gained some newspaper currency, to the effect that she lost a large sum of money by her Byron book. It is

hardly worth the contradicting.

Miss Louise M. Alcott will sail from your wharves on Saturday for Europe on the very morning of the publica-tion of her "Old Fashioned Girl," which starts its career with an advance order already reaching 11,000 copies She goes by steamer to Brest, and, avoiding the barsh climate of England altogether, will traverse in a leisurely way the south of France, with Italy as the objective point, seeking by every means to conquer the obstinate bronchial difficulty which has troubled her so long. The companions of her trip are her sister, Miss Mary Alcott, who will continue in the Italian galleries her study of art, and "mulio friend. Whether Miss Alcott will give her time abroad to an, "terary work is dependent entirely upon the condition of her hea. h as effected by new at-

mospheres. Miss Kate Field has returned from her prolonged Western lecturing tour with a highly satisfactory pecumary result, and that best of all success, the certainty of s plenty of engagements for next season. She is next to select for another Winter's theme some topic con nected with the stage, with which she is familiar by bereditary right, and concerning which she has written much and well. In the meanwhile she is resting comfortably here, and doing up Mr. Fechter for The Atlantic Monthly in the lively and graphic style in which she has in past years celebrated the histrionic powers of Madame tori and Charles Dickens.

"Man's Wrengs" is the title of a book to be published by a Boston firm, Messrs. Crosby & Damrell, early in April. As its name indicates, it esponses "the other side" in the woman question. The writer's name is not divulged. The book will be in the form of a marrative in the first person, giving the experiences, and the views formed thereon, of a young Southern lady, trained in the ideas and ways of her section, placed by circumstances in a New-England family, and brought into contact with the more positive and salient New-England notions of the period.

A new volume of "Poems" by Mr. Dante Gabriel Rossetti is to be published in England about the middle of next month. It is sure of readers and admirers in America, but I doubt if it will be reprinted here now that it is so easy and so profitable for our publishers to import aditions. A set of the proof sheets has reached this side of the water, and with it the opinion of an English critic who has read them, that the book contains the finest lyrical poems which have been written in our language during this century. The world will hardly follow him in this opinion; but it will hardly be disputed that the book contains many excellent things, together with some which bear the unmistakable marks of the author's Hking for Shelley and for Browning and even for Swinburre. The longest poems in the book are "A Last Confession," an Italian tale of 1848, in blank verse, and "Dante at Verona." The last hundred pages of the volume have a general title. "Sonnets and Songs, Fowards a Work to be called 'The House of Life.'" I am snabled to copy for THE TRIBUNE readers one or two poems from the proofs. This odd sonnet seems to me to poinbine some of Mr. Rossetti's strongest characteristics:

"A MATCH WITH THE MOON.

Weary already, weary miles to-night
I walked for bed; and so, to get some case
I dogged the flying moon with similes.

And like a wisp she doubled on my sight.
In ponds; and caught in tree-tops like a kite.
And in a globe of film all vatorish
Swam full-faced like a silly silver fish;—
Last like a bubble shot the welkin's hight
Where my road turned, and got behind me, and sent
My wizened shadow eraning round at me,
And jeered. 'So, step the measure—one, two, three!'
And it I faced on her, leeked innocent,
But just at parting, half-way down a dell,
She kissed me for good-night. So you'll not tell."
Perhaps, however, this intile lyric will please more

"Peace in her chamber, wheresoe'r
It be, a holy place:
The thought still brings my soul much grace
As morning meadows wear.

"Whether it still be small and light, A maid's who dreams alone,
As from her orchard-gate the moon
lts ceiling showed at night.

"Or whether, in a shadow dense As napital hymns invoke, Insecent maidenhood awoke To married innocence.

There still the thanks unheard await , The unconscious gift bequeathed:
For there my soul this hour has bree thed.
An air inviolate."
Messrs Roberts Brothers propose to import editions.

with their own imprint, of two books oy Sir Humphrey Davy-"Salmonia; or, Days of Fly Fishing, with some accounts of the habits of fish of the genus Salmo," a do-licious little work in the form of d'alogue, after the manner of Walton's "Angier," ming ing the sportsman and the naturalist in a very happy combination; and "Conclations of Travel," combining philosophy and journeying in a similar fashion, though with not quite so light a result. The latter work was Sir Humphrey Davy's last preduction, and was fluished on his death-bed. Both these books have run tkrough many editions in Eugland, but they are hardly known at all in this country, though they are of a character to be warmly welcomed here.

A book quite out of the common run is that now going through the Riverside Press, "The Nation," by Mr. E. Mulford. It will appeal primarily to students in statesmanship and history; and as every American citizen theoretically endeavors to instruct himself to a certain degree in these subjects preparatory to political action, t will be widely discussed by first-class men. It is an attempt to decide certain vital principles of nationality to which all momentary legislation must be referred; to give law-makers and turists and people generally a conception of fundamental ideas rather than of constitutional instruments; and in short to get back to the ex amination of the foundations of civil order and political affairs, which we in the haste of the day to pile bricks upon the superstructure are somewhat apt to overlook ore. Mr. Mulford says in his preface;

or ignore. Mr. Mulford says in his preface;
"I have sought, however imperfectly, to give expression to the thought of the people in the late war, and that conception of the nation, which they who were so worthy, held worth living and dying for. I know how far it falls short of that conception which went with them to battle and sacrible; yet I would most care to connect, if I may, my work with theirs, and trust it may be received by flim, who is the head of all, to whom their service was done."

If the punctuation and phraseology of this extract show some tinge of quaintness and eccentricity, the tone of it proves that this new publicist is not one who deals with the dry bones of national formation forgetting the essential elements of progressive life. The book is to be an octavo of four handred and fifty pages, and Messrs. Hurd & Houghton expect to got it before the public in

A Boston printing house is sending through the press a novel of modern life and society by George Alfred Townsend, a gentleman well known to newspaper readers in almost all parts of the country, under some of his many different signatures. The book is to be published by subscription only-an unusual way for a work of fiction-by a firm in Hartford. The author has woven into his story some sketches of his experiences in Europe which appeared in The New-York Citizen at the time of his edito rial connection with that paper.

ART MATTERS. Mr. Joseph Ames has parted with his portrait of Miss Bianche Butler, in exchange for her father's check for the full amount of his regular price for paintings of that size-\$1,500. The story is told that this satisfactory consummation was hastened by an offer to Mr. Ames of the same sum for the picture from a club of young men who sought it as an ornament for their drawing-room. I have no means of verifying this report, and am inclined to disbelieve it; but true it is that the artist had many offers for his picture from those who admired it simply as a work of art, and might have sold it several times over and saved the interest on his money, had he not felt in honor bound to wait for the original purchaser to get over his sulks.

Mr. Martin Milmore, in addition to the works of which

I spoke in my last letter, has received a commission for a soldiers' and sailors' monument for the City of Charlestown, which will be far more elaborate than any group he has hitherto attempted. The design comprehends a figure of America crowning her military and paval heroes, and includes three life-size figures in marble, upon a granite pedestal. As Charlestown sent a large proportion of her sons into the navy, it is natural that that branch of the service should receive a fuller recognition than in some other monuments of the kind.

Our other principal neighboring city of Cambridge has a soldlers' monument in progress, under the hands of Cyrus and Darius Cobb, twin brothers who work together as one sculptor. These gentlemen, brothers of the more celebrated novelist whose fame is identical with that of The Ledger, are engaged also in common upon a tale in parts, glorifying the Grand Army of the Republic, which is said to be already having a large sale at the West. I doubt if the records of art and literature show another such instance of close identification in thought and labor of twins by birth; and the alliance seems the more interesting that the two brothers, though arrived at a time of ife when individuality is apt to stamp itself on the face, look so nearly alike that their acquaintances are often at a loss to distinguish them, or to know with which they

are speaking. Boston itself meanwhile has no soldiers' monument, but only a costly granite foundation buried in one of the hills of the Common, the work having been abandoned at this stage on account of a job discovered or suspected in the contracts for the superstructure. There is occasional talk of taking a new start and completing the memorial, but with every year new projects demand munfcipal attention, and the likelihood of any further action grows less and less probable.

THEATRICAL MATTERS Mr. Fechter is back here in his American home, as he considers Boston, enjoying the pleasant homage of literary people, and playing his best, though his Legardere has made no such impression here as his former imper-sonations, the trashiness and sensationalism of the play being too strong for the Bostonian palate, and seeming to obscure the brilliancy of the acting. It is very rarely possible to take up the thread of a popular success after it is once dropped, and according to present indications Mr. Fechter's second engagement here will be signalized by no such furore as that which culminated at the close of his first brief visit. But he has a firmly-established reputation in Boston, and has won such recognition from a class very difficult to please, as rarely rewards any star in his profession. It has been expected that he would play some parts here as yet untested by the American public, as Iago, Richard III., and Macbeth, but this 18 1101

Selwyn's Theater holds on the even tenor of its way, doing a much better business now with commonplace and backneved attractions than it could command early in the season with the brightest and newest plays. It has given a few nights this week to Henry J. Byron's soso new comedy, "Sir Simon Simple; or, Not Such a Fool as he Looks," and next week is to bring out "Lost at Sea" in a manner to appeal to the sensation-loving classes of theater-goers. This is the time of making engagements for next season, and the stage quakes under such rumors of general revolution as have not been heard before since the house was opened. It is understood that Mr. James W. Wallack will take the place of Mr. Frederick Robinson as leading man, and that Mrs. F. S. Chanfrau and Miss Fanny Morant will come back to the company-involving probably the retirement of Mrs. Thomas Barry, who has acquitted be self most acceptably in the leading business the present season. Miss Blanchard, the brisk soubrette, will probably seek an engagement elsewhere; and Mr. Stuart Robson, the low comedian, has formally announced his resignation to the public. Of course, it is too early to speak of the details of the company for 1871, but it is probable that Mr. Pearson, Mr. Grienths, and Mr. Le Moyne will be found still in the ranks to which they have stood for three seasons, and that the latter gentleman at least, if the various shiftings give him an opportunity to dis-play his very remarkable talents, will become a greater favorite than ever before. The proprietor and the manager of the house are now in entire accord, and every omen is favorable for complete success in the future.

The Museum has brought out this week "She Stoops to Conquer," in a style emulating the production of the comedy under the direction of Mrs. John Wood, which has wen such amazing success in London. I doubt if so claborate a setting in the way of scenery, properties, and costumes has ever been given to an old comedy in this country as this piece now has. The principal scene -the drawing-room of Mr. Hardcastle's mansion-seems to offer little opportunity for show; but it is so finely pre.

of homely and substantial comfort, the at one may study it agreeably for an hour without atr and doings of the figures moving about in this charming and doings of the figures moving about in this charming good to correspond with, this of it is up to the standard warren as Tony Lump; but the rich humor of Mr. graceful acting of Miss and the regal beauty and go far to supply the deficiencies elsewhere.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. F RIEDRICH KAPP has just published a usef'al and interesting essay on Immigration and the O'm aissioners of Emigration of the State of New-York (The Nation Press), conveying a great deal of information which can probably be found nowhere else in such convenient shape. He traces the history of the exedus from Europe to the New World, describes the treatment which emigrants receive on ship-board and suggests new regulations which seem to be required, tells how the people are treated when they arrive by the runners, the boarding-house keepers, and other landsharks, and explains the excellent arrangements of the Commissioners of Emigration for the protection and comfort of the newly-arrived foreigner. He shows in detail the operations of the Castle Garden depot and the Hespital on Ward's Island, illustrating both with woodcuts. Another chapter reproduces Mr. Kapp's paper read before the Social Science Association last year, on the capital value of Immigration to this country, and an appendix contains important documents and statistical tables relating to the topics treated in the body of the book.

Mr. WILLIAM J. FLAGG, the author of " European Vineyards," has just prepared a little Hand-Book of the Sulphur Cure, as applicable to the diseases of vines and fruit trees in this country. (Harper & Bros.) The vine disease has assumed such threatening dimensions of late in the United States that these practical instructions from an acknowledged expert will be read with great is terest. Mr. Fingg became familiar with the sulphur-cure during his visit to Europe, and assures us that he has since applied it with complete success to his own vineyards in the Ohio Valley. Others in this country have not been so fortunate, and Mr. Flagg now undertakes to show why they have failed, and to teach them the right way of going to work. His directions are very clear and simple, and their value is certainly well worth testing.

A collection of stories originally published in The Jewish Messenger of this city has been issued in book form from the office of that paper. It is entitled Friday Night. The stories are gathered from various sources, some translated from the French, others adapted or translated from the German; but the purpose of all of them is to illustrate the customs, traditions, and inner life of the Hebrew people, and show us that wonderful race as it appears from an inside view. The idea is excellent and somewhat novel, and we hope the editors will be encouraged by the reception of this little volume to continue the series of which they purpose it shall be

Mr. S. S. Randall, Superintendent of Public Schools, whose remarks on the Bible question, at Grammar School No. 14, on Wednesday night, called forth a spirited reply, on the spot, by the Rev. Father McGlynn, has prepared an article for the coming number of Hours at Home, in which the entire history of the agitation in

Oliver Ditson & Co. have added to their catalogue of sheet music Silver Spray, an original theme with variations, by Miss Ella F. Locke. The melody is simple and very graceful, and the variations are easy.

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